

Humboldt County Historical Society

Old Timer Interview with Arthur Davison  
Orick / Prairie Creek Area

Indexed by Jeanne Best 10-22-88      Time: 65 minutes

Index No.

Subject

0.00 - 0.63

Gold mining in California described. Mining from sand. N/W or S/W tide necessary in order to pan gold.

0.64 - 0.96

Location of area for mining described. Five miles north of Orick. Coast Guard building still there. Mining still going on at time of interview.

0.97 - 1.26

Richest "take" was \$500<sup>00</sup> to \$600<sup>00</sup> in two hours. One could actually see gold lying on beach surface .... only time this was known to happen.

1.29 - 1.50

Early day pack trains discussed and people running the trains. Soldiers also used pack trains for the Klamath Station.

1.51 - 1.87

Indian troubles described. Incident at Big Leg where Arthur saw an encounter between two hostile Indians. No white trouble with Indians due to two forts located nearby.

1.88 - 2.20

Bald Hills area now lumbering business but originally sheep ranching. All-steel sawmill located there. Big ranches usually had their own trains. Supply trips made 2-3 times a year. Three or four thousand acre ranches were the average size. At sheep shearing time 6 men were employed. Otherwise there were usually 1-3 Indians employed.

2.21 - 2.48

Freight trains discussed. Roads very bad. Summer trading out of Arcata, some from Trinidad in very early days. Winter via horseback, "swimming the horses" across rivers.



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Arthur Davison interview

<u>Index No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
2.50-2.62	Creeks forded when water was low. Supplies ferried occasionally by canoe in high water.
2.63-2.99	<u>Big Lagoon Beach</u> drownings described. <u>Mr. Davison's</u> near fatality described near <u>Mussel Point</u> .
3.00-3.12	Bear incident described.
3.13-3.33	Fourth of July celebration described. All-night dancing, boxing, visiting with seldom seen neighbors - Good food. People came for 30 miles around. About a half day's journey.
3.34-3.54	<u>J.C. Webster</u> 9/9/16 started a store, gas station, hotel and post office. No roads at first. <u>Redwood School</u> mentioned. Small, 5 children attended.
3.55-3.76	Fishing on <u>Klamath</u> described. 10-15¢ paid for salmon. <u>Indians</u> and eel fishing and procedure described.
3.77-3.98	Cannery mentioned. gill nets used in river shaped in a "U". As much as a ton could be caught in net. Salmon then extracted from net.
3.99-4.10	<u>Klamath River</u> mouth dangers described.